

Ms. Nina Conway  
101 N Plum St  
Richmond, VA 23220-4613

Oct 17, 2010

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson

**NOV 09 2010**

Subject: I Want Strong Action on the Chesapeake Bay

Dear EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson,

The Chesapeake Bay is one of Virginia's greatest resources. The Bay is home to thousands of species of plants and animals, a huge economic engine for tourism and seafood, and a place that is near to my heart. I applaud both the EPA and Virginia for taking actions to clean this important waterway as well as the rivers, lakes and streams that flow into the Bay.

Unfortunately, Virginia is not acting as an equal partner in the cleanup process. Governor McDonnell's draft Watershed Implementation Plan falls woefully short. Virginia's plan lacks detail and must be improved.

Specifically, I wish to see the following steps taken:

- Acceptance of the EPA allocation for pollutants along the James River and steps taken to reduce pollution from wastewater treatment plants in this area.
- A commitment to funding for agricultural best management practices with a plan to increase this funding over the next 15 years to a level that allows achievement of 95% implementation on Virginia's farmers.
- A system of checks must be established to ensure that all projects reported as using best management practices are audited by the state to ensure authenticity.

I value clean water and look to our local, state and federal agencies to assist in cleaning up and maintaining our waterways for this and future generations.

We are so fortunate to have the Chesapeake Bay on OUR coastline, and for those of us who live in Richmond, the James River within minutes of a visit. There's a saying that 'a prophet has no honor in his own country', and that rather sums up how our state treats its crown jewels, the Chesapeake and the James. It is now time to correct this, putting aside resources to do so.

If the steps I outlined above are not taken, then I strongly believe that the EPA should use its full authority to ensure Virginia's waterways are clean through a backstop program that ensures Virginia's compliance under the EPA's terms and conditions.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Nina Conway

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